

R'Angel Munoz

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flamenco news

Peña Flamenca de Londres • Spring 2014 • £3



festival issue



the name's the game

Angel Muñoz premieres a new production at Sadler's Wells Festival



Ángel Muñoz. photo Daniel M Pantiga

Peña member Rosamaria Cisneros-Kostic, a professional artist and teacher, writes:

Ángel has chosen to look closely at the various definitions of his name, exploring the contradictions and different qualities of each meaning. Is he an angel, a descender, a leader, the guardian or the messenger, the keeper, the Annunciation, the one that flies or the one that falls.

Ángel highlights that these symbols were used to create the choreography. The show promises some of the deepest forms of cantes like siguriya, ending with lighter palos echoing fandangos and alegrías.

I must admit that I am quite interested to see Ángel's farruca and guajiras. Such different palos with a unique temperament that it will be intriguing to see what he does with the styles. Farruca, typically considered a male dance,

although women perform it quite often and with equally as much force, is powerful and linear. Guajiras can be supple and graceful. This choreographic decision to have them following one another in the show, is a risk, but one that highlights his range. With this solo show, Ángel is exploring contradictions and these two styles seem to fall into that category.

Singers will be José Ángel Carmona, Miguel Ortega, winner of the 2010 Lampara Minera Award, and the jerezano Londro (who has released his first solo album under the production of Miguel Poveda); guitarist Javier Patino, percussionist Nacho Lopez, saxophonist Diego Villegas and electronic musician Artomatico.

Ángel, who was born in Córdoba like Paco Peña, in whose shows he has been seen many times in

for angel

Angel From Black to White reflects contradictions within himself – creating a dialogue between dancing bodies and music.

UK theatres and at the Edinburgh Festival, is a favourite teacher in London where he has taught both for the Escuela de Baile and the Spanish Dance Society, an indication of his range.

I put further questions to him.

• **Is this your first individual show? Who is dancing with you? That is to say, are you the only dancer?**

No, this is the fifth production that I own, in addition to having choreographed for different companies. In my last two jobs as a solo artist, I am the only dancer onstage.

• **Who is your own favourite dancer?**

Today I couldn't say for any dancer in particular, as there are many and all are very good.

• **How did you prepare / develop the spectacle? Jointly with the musicians or did you choreograph it first and later add the music? How long does it take you to "create" the whole thing?**

At first, the idea came from my friend and great writer Silvia Calado and after elaborating it with the help of Daniel Muñoz, we come to realize it. The idea was to dance to the music and that each flamenco palo had one of the descriptions

of my name. To do this, I surrounded myself by a group of outstanding artists and they helped me shape it gradually, with great care and affection. Obviously, working with such great artists we couldn't have everyone at all times, so it took us longer than expected, but in total about seven months since it was decided on, to taking it to the theatre.

• **Artists who are most successful are those who always have the support of a large community or family – do you have a group of people who support you? For this show, is there someone who you can highlight?**

I have always had the support of many people and thanks to that I have gone forward with all of my desires, starting with my wife* and daughters who are those that "support" me 24 hours of the day, and continuing for my friends, partners, pupils and the Flamenco Fans. If I had to mention or speak of someone who stands out in this show, I wouldn't say only one person. I should give the names of all who are on stage with me including the technicians, who make the show even better with their efforts and affection.

*Charo Espino, herself a famous dancer